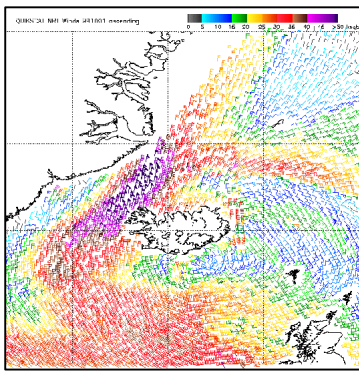


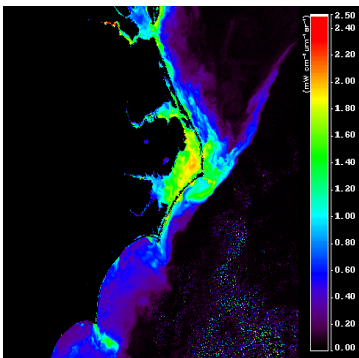
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service Ocean Remote Sensing



Many important commercial fishery management decisions require regional environmental data. Satellites are ideal for this purpose due to their ability to observe large regional ocean areas at high resolution.



NESDIS partnerships with NASA's QuikSCAT ocean winds satellite programs are leading to improved measurements of ocean winds along our coasts, increasing the number of observations for coastal storm weather forecasting.



23 Sep 1999
Turbulent Flood plumes from
Hurricane Floyd

The National Requirement: The Nation requires greater use of and improved access to the wealth of oceanographic data now becoming routinely available from earth orbiting satellites.

NOAA's Response: The Ocean Remote Sensing Program provides for improved delivery of critical oceanographic data to U.S. coastal constituencies. The Program seeks to expand the primary areas of interest to include applications to improve insight on regional oceanographic factors affecting important fisheries and critical ecosystems and innovative techniques to simplify and improve access to data by the public. The program also focuses on research supporting the development of future ocean sensing capable U.S. satellite systems and improved satellite data.

Satellite oceanographic data is critical to U.S. coastal constituencies. For example, it satellite oceanographic data helped identify and understand the habitat for the lobster industry in Maine. In another example, National Weather Service forecasters significantly improved their coastal wind forecasts in the Alaska region, contributing to a reduction of risk to life and property in the Nation's largest commercial fishery. A further illustration was the use of ocean color and nutrients imagery to alert North Carolina emergency management personnel to downstream sediment and pollution runoff effects from Hurricane Floyd flooding.

Financing: The FY 2003 Budget requests \$4.0 million for the Ocean Remote Sensing program. This amount represents the same level of funding as the FY 2002 enacted level.

NESDIS will use the requested funding to expand and improve the use of earth satellite-observed oceanographic data by local, regional, state and federal users within U.S. coastal regions. NESDIS will also conduct applied research and exploratory technology demonstrations with state partners and industry and will develop outreach and information services through the NOAA CoastWatch program.